

Better  
**Together.**



**BACK TO CORINTH**

*A RECAP OF 1 CORINTHIANS 1-10*



# Back to Corinth

1 Corinthians 1-10 recap

## Recapping Corinthians

Last year we studied 1 Corinthians 1-10, so as we pick up in chapter 11 from next week, it will be good to re-familiarise ourselves with some key facts about this letter.

Straight up, it's nice that Paul writes not only to the church of God that is in Corinth, but also to **“all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours”** (1 Cor 1.2). I think we can include ourselves in that!

Although there's lots of differences (and some surprising similarities), the principles for what the church is meant to be don't change. We just need to be discerning and apply them to our current circumstances and culture.

**Kicking off** - to do something fun, have a go at the following challenges. If you're zooming or FaceTiming or using some other online platform, make sure you designate one person to facilitate this study.



## Challenge 1 - Geography

Multiple choice (circle one) (30 seconds)

- A. Corinth is high on a mountain peak in the Andes mountain range of South America.
- B. Corinth's geographical position on the narrow 'land bridge' between the Greek peninsula and the Peloponnese was crossed by many people.
- C. Corinth is a lost city which is now buried deep beneath the ocean.



## Challenge 2 - Culture and random stuff

Tick which of these statements you believe to be true and discuss your answers. Consult Dr Google if in doubt (4 minutes).

- A. Corinth is not an established and ancient city like Rome. It's a new city, with lots of trade and new wealth. Corinth is cosmopolitan and progressive.
- B. Corinth is a quiet backwater no one ever visits.
- C. Corinth is full of atheists who have no religion at all.
- D. Corinth was exceptionally religious, with lots of shrines and idol worship.
- E. After a short time, everyone in Corinth converted to Christianity.
- F. Everyone in Corinth was rich.
- G. Everyone in Corinth was poor.
- H. The church in Corinth was made up of mostly Jews.
- I. The church in Corinth was a mixture of many nationalities as well as rich and poor alike.
- J. Everyone in Corinth was a bogan.
- K. There were some very wealthy people and some very poor in Corinth.

## Challenge 3 - 2 minute challenge

(4 minutes)

Scan the first 10 chapters and list as many "issues" as you can that Paul deals with (in 2 minutes).

The rules of *Scattergories* apply. You get a point for every "issue" someone else doesn't get. Go!

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**A note on genre.** 1 Corinthians would typically be classed as "epistle", but this particular letter is a bit like listening to one end of a phone conversation. There appears to be a number of letters that have gone back and forth between Paul and Corinth, which are referred to, but we don't have copies of. It's helpful to bear this in mind on the way through.

## Back to the Word

Hopefully some things are starting to come back now. Let's just go back to read a few key sections of the first part of Paul's letter. Take turns reading these, or assign verses to members of the group, then summarise each in a simple word or two, or a phrase.

1 Cor 1.1-8	1 Cor 6.1
1 Cor 1.10-11	1 Cor 6.12,13
1 Cor 1.18	1 Cor 7.1,2
1 Cor 2.13-15	1 Cor 7.39
1 Cor 3.1-4	1 Cor 8.13
1 Cor 3.18	1 Cor 9.22,23
1 Cor 5.1,2	1 Cor 10.1-12

## Different place, same principles

Ok, so you're getting a feel for the issues in Corinth. To finish, let's remind ourselves of the importance for these same principles in the here and now. In the table below, choose three of the issues you've listed above, then identify the principle and 1st century application, and how that same principle might apply now. The first one is given here as an example.

Issue in Corinth	Paul's principle	Application in Corinth	Ippy application
Boasting in leaders	What looks like foolishness and weakness is God's wisdom and power.	Remember what God's done for you by the foolishness and weakness of the cross. Boast in the Lord.	Remember what God's done for you by the foolishness and weakness of the cross. Boast in the Lord.

## For Prayer

Pray together and ask that God would open our eyes to the ways we might be the same as the world in our own context.